



Association of American Geographers
Middle States Division
NEWSLETTER

Editor: Mark Blumler

Call for Papers and Posters

Fall 2015 Meeting
Holiday Inn-Dwtn Hotel
Binghamton, New York

October 2-3, 2015
Abstracts due by September 11, 2015
(See page 4 for meeting information)

President’s Message

I hope that everyone has had a productive and restful summer and is looking forward to the start of the fall semester. The MSDAAG 2015 Annual Meeting is coming up soon, and I’m thrilled to host you in Binghamton, New York this fall.

This year’s Middle States meeting will be held on October 2-3 in Binghamton, NY and hosted by Binghamton University. Binghamton University is a public, SUNY (State University of New York) university with approximately 15,000 students and known for its quality, relatively low-cost education. The Department of Geography has over 100 undergraduate majors and about 40 graduate students. The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn in downtown Binghamton. Binghamton, the Parlor City, is known as the home of the spiedie, and many carousels. Downtown Binghamton has seen a growth in restaurants and brew pubs in recent years.

I look forward to seeing everyone again at this year’s meeting and another great MSD regional conference.
Mark Blumler, Binghamton University

2015 Divisional Officers

PRESIDENT

Mark Blumler
 Dept. of Geography
 SUNY Binghamton
 Binghamton, NY 13902
mablum@binghamton.edu

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jo Margaret Mano
 Dept. of Geography
 SUNY-New Paltz
manoj@newpaltz.edu

SECRETARY

Joan Welch
 Geography and Planning
 West Chester University
 West Chester, PA
jwelch@wcupa.edu

PAST PRESIDENTS

David Fyfe
York College of PA
 Kelly Frothingham
SUNY Buffalo State

REGIONAL COUNCILOR

Robert J. Mason
 Geography and Urban Studies
 Temple University
 Philadelphia, PA
mason@temple.edu

Paul G. Marr
Shippensburg University

MIDDLE STATES GEOGRAPHER

Adam Kalkstein
USMA West Point
Adam.Kalkstein@usma.edu
 Paul G. Marr
Shippensburg University
pgmarr@ship.edu

In this Issue:

	Page
• President’s Message	1
• World Geography Bowl	2
• Student Paper Competition	2
• 2015 AAG Annual Meeting	3
• <i>Middle States Geographer</i> Information	3
• Call for MSD Officer Nominations	3
• 2015 Meeting Announcement & Information	4
• 2015 Meeting Registration Form & Payment Form	7

World Geography Bowl

Participate this year in the MSD Geography Bowl at the annual meeting in Binghamton, New York! Besides being barrels of fun, the highest-scoring students will be invited to represent the Division at the World Geography Bowl at the AAG annual meeting (to be held in San Francisco, Spring 2016) and will receive partial funding to participate. All Division undergraduate and graduate students are invited to compete this fall. You may either form a team (5-6 people) or sign up this fall to be placed on a team. Information on playing or setting up a team can be found at <http://www.geography.vt.edu/sedaag/WGB/WGBMain.htm>. If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please contact our regional secretary Dr. Joan Welch, West Chester University, at jwelch@wcupa. The Geography Bowl will take place after dinner on Friday night, October 2nd.

Student Paper Competition

Submit a paper to the AAG Middle States Division's

STUDENT PAPER & POSTER COMPETITION

2015 Annual Meeting

Middle States Division of the Association of American Geographers
Downtown Holiday Inn, Binghamton, NY

October 2-3, 2015

Middle States Division AAG encourages all graduate and undergraduate students to submit and present research papers to the Student Paper Competition of the MSDAAG annual conference. Both graduate and undergraduate competitions have a First Prize of \$100 and a Second Prize of \$50.

Student status is as of May 1, 2015. PLEASE NOTE YOUR STATUS (GRAD/UNDERGRAD) on your abstract and paper submission. Registration fees are refunded after the conference for students both submitting the completed paper by the deadline AND presenting the paper at the conference. Completed papers must follow the *Middle States Geographer* guidelines and can be no longer than 8 pages, single spaced, 10 point Times Roman or equivalent font. Further details on the guidelines are specified at the web site at www.msaag.org Entrants should send abstracts of no more than 250 words to Mark Blumler at mablum@binghamton.edu by September 11, and send electronic copies of completed papers to Joan Welch jwelch@wcupa.edu MSDAAG Student Paper Competition Chair, by September 21.

There is also a Student Poster Competition with graduate and undergraduate divisions with a First Prize of \$100 and a Second Prize of \$50. Send an abstract of your poster to Mark Blumler by September 11, mablum@binghamton.edu

PLEASE NOTE YOUR STATUS (GRAD/UNDERGRAD) on your abstract. Registration fees not refunded for all the poster competition entrants, only the poster competition winners.

2016 AAG Annual Meeting

Join the Association of American Geographers at the AAG Annual Meeting in **San Francisco, CA, March 29 – April 2, 2016**, for the latest in research and applications in geography, sustainability, and GIScience. The AAG Annual Meeting is an interdisciplinary forum open to anyone with an interest in geography and related disciplines. All scholars, researchers, and students are welcome. For more information, visit www.aag.org/annualmeeting.

Middle States Geographer Information

The Middle States Geographer is the official academic journal of the Middle States Division of the Association of American Geographers. The journal is published annually and includes papers from external submissions and the Division annual meeting. The Middle States Geographer contains papers authored by both faculty and students (with peer-review by at least two reviewers) and covers a wide range of topics.

We invite all who present papers at the Fall 2015 MSDAAG meeting to submit a manuscript for publication in the next issue of the Middle States Geographer. Paper submission guidelines are available on the journal's website at <http://msaag.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Manuscript-Submission-Guidelines-Middle-States-Geographer.pdf>.

You may also contact the editors: Adam Kalkstein at the USMA West Point, Adam.Kalkstein@usma.edu or Paul Marr at Shippensburg University, pgmarr@ship.edu if you have questions about submitting a manuscript or if you are interested in serving as a reviewer. Students presenting papers should also consider submitting for their paper for publication in the journal.

The Middle States Geographer is entirely an online journal. Articles from 1987 (Volume 20) through 2014 (Volume 47) may be viewed at the journal website. The online format of the journal widely increases accessibility to readers and exposure for authors, while reducing printing costs. Furthermore, color graphics are now possible at no cost to authors.

Call for MSD Officer Nominations—deadline is September 15, 2015

Please consider joining the leadership of MSDAAG. We are currently soliciting nominations for the president and secretary for 2016. Voting will take place in September 2015. The newly elected positions will be announced at the Fall 2015 Meeting.

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD WILL PROVIDE ALL THE GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES YOU NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL. PLEASE CONSIDER THESE REWARDING OPPORTUNITIES. YOU MAY CONTACT MARK BLUMLER (mablum@binghamton.edu) FOR ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

President

The term for President will run January 2016 – December 2016. The President hosts the annual meeting, chairs board meetings, and puts out the newsletter. Normally, the President serves first one year as Secretary, then as Vice-President, but due to a resignation, we need someone to step up and fill the post next year. Please consider doing so.

Secretary

The term for Secretary will run January 2016 – December 2016. The Secretary will then progress in subsequent years through the positions of Vice President and then President. The Secretary is in charge of keeping the meeting minutes from board meetings and judging the student paper competition. The board has two meetings a year: one conference call in the Spring and one at the annual Fall meeting.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT: Fall 2015, Binghamton, New York

The 2015 Middle States Division AAG Meeting will be held in the Holiday Inn-Dwtm Hotel in Binghamton, New York on Friday, October 2nd and Saturday, October 3rd.

Binghamton is located in the “southern Tier” of upstate New York, at the junction of Interstate-81 and Rte. 17 (future I-86). The fall 2015 meeting will consist of two days of paper and poster sessions. Friday will include paper and plenary sessions, buffet dinner, and the Geography Bowl competition. On Saturday, a morning of paper presentations will be followed by a buffet luncheon and student paper awards. Please join us for this event.

CALL FOR PAPERS, POSTERS, AND PANELS**Paper Sessions**

Paper sessions are 80 minutes long and consist of four presentations of 20 minutes. Papers on all topics of a geographic nature are welcome. Concurrent paper sessions will be held on Friday, October 2nd and Saturday, October 3rd. Each room is equipped with a digital projector and screen. We urge participants to use PowerPoint software for their presentations and to have your presentation on a flash drive. If you are interested in organizing a themed paper session (consisting of four paper presentations), please contact Mark Blumler at mablum@binghamton.edu or 607-777-6732.

Poster Session

The poster sessions will be held on both Friday and Saturday. Since poster space is limited, please keep all posters to 30 x 40 inches.

Panel – Roundtable Sessions

Panel discussions and roundtables are also welcome. Panel discussion sessions typically consist of three to four panelists, and are organized around a theme. Roundtable discussion sessions are ‘open format’ where the chair of the roundtable facilitates a discussion among all attendees focusing on a theme or issue. Students are welcome to organize both panel and roundtable sessions. If you are interested in organizing either a panel or a roundtable session please contact Mark Blumler at mablum@binghamton.edu or 607-777-6732.

Call for Panel Participants

One proposed panel is to focus on undergraduate engagement in geography. If you would like to participate in this panel, please contact Dr. Jane M. Read (jaread@maxwell.syr.edu) or 315 443-4279

Program

The program will be available on-line at the Middle States Division website in mid-September, 2015 and will be sent out to MSD members soon afterwards. Maps of the area and campus can be found in the front section of the program.

Registration

If you are presenting a paper, poster, or involved in a panel/roundtable session:

- Email Dr. Mark Blumler (mablum@binghamton.edu) your title and an abstract (not exceeding 250 words) by *September 11, 2015*.
- Fill in the **Payment Form** found on page 7. Please make checks payable to MSDAAG and postal mail both the Payment Form and check to the address at the bottom of the form by *September 11, 2015*.

If you are attending the conference but **not** presenting a paper, poster, or involved in a panel/roundtable session:

- Fill in the **Payment Form** found on page 7. Please make checks payable to MSDAAG and postal mail both the Payment Form and check to the address at the bottom of the form by *September 11, 2015*.

If you are submitting a paper for the student paper competition:

- Email your title and an abstract (not exceeding 250 words) to Dr. Blumler (mablum@binghamton.edu) by September 11, 2015, AND send electronic copies of completed papers to Joan Welch (jwelch@wcupa.edu), MSDAAG Student Paper Competition Chair, by September 21.
- Fill in the **Payment Form** found on page 7. Please make checks payable to MSDAAG and postal mail both the Payment Form and check to the address at the bottom of the form by *September 11, 2015*.
- Write "Student Paper Submitted" on the lower left side of the check, and it will be refunded after you have presented the paper at the conference.

Sorry, but credit cards cannot be accepted for advanced registration or at the meeting. There are no refunds after September 21, 2015.

MAKE YOUR LODGING RESERVATIONS

Binghamton University Dept. of Geography has arranged for a block of rooms at the **Holiday Inn-Downtown Hotel** available at the rate of \$97 plus tax per night. Please make sure you mention "Middle States Division of the AAG" when making your reservations. Please also reserve your room early; rooms at the meeting rate are only available until September 11, 2015 and space is limited.

Holiday Inn, Downtown Binghamton, NY

2-8 Hawley Street,, Binghamton, NY 13901 (607) 722-1212 <http://www.holidayinn.com/>

Rate: \$97 plus tax

Mention "Middle States Division of the AAG" to get the reduced rate.

Location: This is the conference hotel where the meeting will take place.

Additional Accommodations:**DoubleTree by Hilton, Binghamton**

225 Water Street, Binghamton NY 13901 (607) 722-7575 <http://doubletree3.hilton.com/en/hotels>

Rate: \$129 (approx.)

Location: Less than 1 mile from the conference

Grand Royale, Binghamton

79 Collier Street, Binghamton, NY 13901 (607) 722-000 www.grandroyalehotel.com

Rate: \$150 (approx.)

Location: Less than 1 mile from the conference

Traditions at the Glen Resort, Johnson City

4101 Johnson Blvd., Johnson city, NY 17404 (607) 797-2381 www.traditionsresort.com

Rate: \$130 (approx.)

Location: 6 miles from the conference

Hampton Inn, Vestal

3708 Vestal Parkway East, Vestal, NY 13901(607) 797-5000 <http://hamptoninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels>

Rate: \$110 (approx.)

Location: 5 miles from the conference

DIRECTIONS TO HOLIDAY INN HOTEL**If your point of departure is:**

From the East (via Route 17): Take 17 west until it merges with I-81 N. Take exit 4N-S toward Hillcrest. Turn left on to Bevier St. Left again on to the ramp for NY-7 S. Merge on to NY-7 S, and then continue on to NY-363 S. Turn right on to Washington St., and left on to Stuart St.

From the West (via Route 17): Take 17 East to exit 72, for US 11/Front St. Right onto Front St., left onto Court St. Turn right at first cross street (Hawley). Hotel is on your right.

From the North (via I-81): Take exit 4N-4S to merge on to NY-7 S. Then follow directions for coming from the East.

From the South (via I-81): Take 81N and exit at 4N-S toward Hillcrest. Follow directions for coming from the east

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

REGISTRATION:

Submit your abstract (not more than 250 words) and title to Dr. Mark Blumler (mablum@binghamton.edu)
And mail this form to the address below

PAYMENT FORM:

**Association of American Geographers - Middle States Division
2015 Meeting Registration**
October 2nd – 3rd, 2015, Holiday Inn, Binghamton, NY 13901

<u>Registration Fees</u>	<u>Before Sept. 11</u>	<u>After Sept. 11</u>
FULL REGISTRATION (Friday dinner, Saturday lunch, all sessions)	\$110	\$120
STUDENT REGISTRATION (Friday dinner, Saturday lunch, all sessions)	\$55	\$65
FRIDAY ONLY (Friday dinner, all Friday sessions)	\$50	\$60
SATURDAY ONLY (Saturday lunch, all Saturday sessions)	\$50	\$60

Name _____ Total Enclosed \$ _____

Affiliation _____

Email Address _____

Check # _____

Make checks payable to: **MSDAAG**
Mail Registration Form to: Dr. Mark Blumler
Department of Geography
P. O. Box 6000
Binghamton University
Binghamton, NY 13902-6000

NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN AFTER September 21, 2015.
Credit cards are NOT accepted at the meeting.